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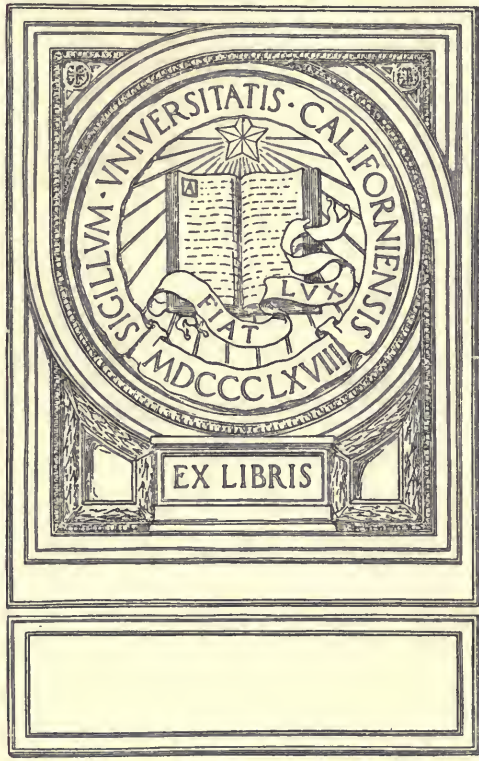
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Mary Farnes Appeal

THE  
A P P E A L

OF AN  
INJURED WIFE

AGAINST A  
CRUEL HUSBAND.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.]

CITY OF LONDON,

(To Wit:)

*MARY FARRER, the Wife of Henry Farrer, of the Inner-Temple, maketh Oath, that the Contents of the Narrative, to which a printed Copy of this Affidavit is annexed, is, in every Respect, to the best of this Deponent's Knowledge, Recollection, and Belief, strictly true in every Part.*

MARY FARRER.

Sworn before me this 17th

Day of May, 1788,

JOHN BURNELL, Mayor.



THE  
A P P E A L  
OF AN  
INJURED WIFE  
AGAINST A  
CRUEL HUSBAND.

WRITTEN BY MRS. [FARRER, Mary]

*DEDICATED TO LADY STRATHMORE.*

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHORESS; AND SOLD  
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M,DCC,LXXXVIII.



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THE

Countess Dowager of Strathmore.

APR 26 1938

HARDING

I CANNOT adopt the common place flattery of dedications in addressing a work to you, the contents of which, would make the most servile adulation silent, instead of pleasing your vanity—This detail of my miseries will wring your heart, if it be made of “penetrable stuff;” and if there be but *one* nerve of sensibility in it, will awaken that nerve to *anguish*.

300957

Yet,

Yet, believe me, Madam, nothing but a sense of that duty which I owe myself—and the vindication of that character, which is the first object of my life, could have urged me to give these sheets to the world. Under any of the *common influences* of the human passions, I should have disdained to publish a narrative, which must give a fatal stab to your reputation—or, rather add another wound to the many already given it by *yourself* in the course of your *notorious life*.

The very conspicuous figure which your Ladyship makes in the following pages *justly* entitles you to this *mark of distinction*—You ought to know the truth of what I have related, and will, I doubt not, permit the fidelity of my narrative to compensate for the faintness of my colouring, and error of my pen.

I remain a depressed and miserable being, struggling with calamities of which *you* are

the *principal* cause and origin ;—but I shall add no more,—and leave the reader to bestow his pity, and deal forth his execration on the objects who respectively deserve the one or the other.

M. FARRER.

AN APPEAL



( 0 )  

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A N

A P P E A L, &c.  

---

**A**FTER a long and severe struggle between pride and delicacy—after long submitting to a series of insults the most mortifying, to a female heart—sensibility and honor urge me to a vindication of my character,—force me to a publication of my wrongs.

The cause of an oppressed wife will not be considered with apathy,—will not be rejected with scorn. It is the cause of humanity,

B

and



and must create pity, though it may not procure relief: I appeal from the fallacious aspersions of an ungrateful husband who, to palliate his own vice, has meanly and basely attempted to stain my virtue. I appeal against an abandoned woman, who has seduced that Husband from the conversation of a chaste and honest love, to the meretricious impurities of a libidinous and adulterous passion.—I appeal from subtle fraud to candid truth.—I appeal from the malign sentence of private calumny, to the rectified judgment of public justice.

Mr. Farrer has audaciously attempted to impose himself on the world as a single man—but, alas! my marriage with him was the foundation of those miseries I am forced to relate. The clearing of my reputation will not depend on bare assertion, every fact will be supported by the indisputable evidence of truth.



My marriage with Mr. Farrer took place on the 20th of July, 1781,\* and I can aver, with sincerity, that never did woman bestow upon man a more disinterested heart:—of fortune Mr. Farrer was destitute; his family had always been dependent;—his father died a bankrupt; his whole dependence was on the expectation of an appointment to an East India packet, in the soliciting for which he experienced many disappointments, and from the poverty of his circumstances at the time of his marriage, was obliged to reside at my mother's, who lived at Nonfuch-park, in Surrey, fifteen miles from London.

\* No. 420, 1781.

St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London.

This is to Certifie, that HENRY FARRER, batchelor, of this Parish, and MARY GOLDSMITH, of Ewell, in the County of Surrey, spinster, was married in this church, by licence, and by the Rev. Mr. Thomas Shrigley, July the twentieth, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, by me

THOMAS SHRIGLEY, Curate.

HENRY FARRER.

MARY GOLDSMITH.

This marriage was solemnized  
between us in the presence of

SAMUEL THATCHER. }  
JOHN EVANS. }

Business necessarily calling for Mr. Far-  
 rer's frequent attendance in town, this re-  
 sidence, as winter approached, became ex-  
 tremely inconvenient ; I therefore proposed,  
 and he consented, that I should remove to  
 town ; and accordingly, I left my mother's  
 house, and all its comforts, to dwell with  
 him in an obscure lodging, in Newgate-  
 street, at the rent of six shillings per week.

We were not long in this humble situa-  
 tion, when I discovered that my husband's  
 finances could not supply even the necessary  
 wants, of a family, much less the conveni-  
 ences of life : but I neither injured his feelings  
 with my apprehensions, nor insulted his pride  
 by complaints. To render him happy was the  
 object of every thought, and as a principal  
 means I determined on adopting a plan, not  
 only of rigid œconomy, but of sedulous  
 industry.

To facilitate these purposes I sent for  
 one of my sisters ; I could confide in her  
 affection,

affection, and found in her a chearful assistant and companion. At this time too, Mr. Farrer was attentive and fond—His anxiety on my account was apparently distressing to him; to alleviate his distress was my constant study, and often have I privately wept in bitterness of sorrow, from the reflection that I could not relieve his wants without humbling his consequence. Necessity, however, pressed hard; and after consulting a few friends, I resolved on working as a milliner and mantua-maker: but my situation being distant from the few acquaintances I had in London, my endeavours proved fruitless,

This disappointment, however, did not produce despondency, but rather stimulated my zeal to serve a husband whom I loved; I had cards printed, and distributed among the neighbouring shops, offering my services in cleaning silk stockings, and clear-starching muslin and gauze.

This business, mean and humiliating as it was, succeeded at first tolerably well; but a violent cold, caught by washing Mr. Farrer's linen, in a damp place, rendered me incapable of pursuing it for several weeks, and terminated in a rheumatism, which settled in my left side, where it continued, almost without intermission, for upwards of two years.

Notwithstanding this weakly and painful state of mind and body, I determined on getting into employment at the west end of the town; and as money was essential, I disposed of a few valuable trinkets, and a silver tea pot, and having procured lodgings in Old Bond-street, Piccadilly, by indefatigable perseverance, I obtained the custom of three or four respectable families.

In this situation, I continued, till change of season called my principal employers into the country, and left me nothing to depend  
on,



on, except the profit of chance-custom, which being very trifling, obliged me to lessen my expences, particularly in the article of lodgings, and accordingly I became tenant to a single room in Stafford-street, at three shillings and six-pence per week.

Business, however, daily decreasing, and my health becoming continually worse, my situation was truly pitiable.---My physician having assured me that the Bath waters were essential to my recovery, I wrote immediately to Mr. Farrer, who was then, and had been for some time in Sunderland, a candid account of my situation, and the necessity there was of my following the medical advice I had received; in answer he pressed me to wait his return, and in ten days after arrived in town.

His presence, however, encreased my wretchedness; for whatever his inclination might have been at that time, he had not

ability to render me the most trifling assistance; yet, if I may judge from his declarations and conduct, his heart laboured with bitter pangs, and he felt more from his poverty on my account, than on his own.

Thus situated, there was but one resource from which relief could be hoped, and it was adopted. I applied to a friend, who lent me a sum sufficient to carry myself and my sister to Bath.

At Bath I met with several persons whom I had previously known, and having by their means procured some work, I continued drinking the waters for three months; and though I received considerable benefit from them; yet I returned to town in December, on hearing that Mr. Farrer was appointed to the command of the True Briton East-Indiaman. In February he received his sailing orders, and having sent for me from  
Portsmouth,

Portsmouth, I remained with him there till within a week of his leaving England.

To elucidate the events I am now about to relate, it is necessary I should mention that my marriage with Mr. Farrer had always been concealed from the knowledge of his family ; and that it was his particular request that, during his absence, I should never divulge it. To his ungenerous request I acceded ; and this circumstance will account for several events which occurred during his absence.

Mr. Farrer, at his departure, presented me with thirty pounds, and assured me he had given orders to a relation of my own, at Deptford, to take up at the India-House, for my use, *ten pounds* every six months ; and with this and my industry, he made no doubt, but I should be able to support myself till his return. It is true that, on this occasion, he expressed, with  
strong

strong emotions, his wish to double the money left me, and his hope, that if at any time I should be in want, Mr. Norman, who was my own relation, would advance me a small sum.

The moment of our parting now arrived,—the scene may be more easily conceived than described—the conflict was severe on both sides—for my part, I can sincerely declare, I suffered under the most poignant grief—he appeared equally distressed.

When the rage of sorrow abated, calm melancholy succeeded, and my mind anticipated innumerable difficulties, which arose and tormented my imagination, and which time proved to have been prophetic of future sufferings.

Mr. Farrer had not been six months absent, when I was afflicted with a violent pleurisy  
 -1 in



in my side, which confined me to my bed. I applied to my relation, who had promised Mr. Farrer to procure me money, but he peremptorily refused me assistance. I, however, repeated my solicitations, and pleaded for relief in faithful representation of the distress I had experienced and suffered under ; but though my request was only for a few guineas, to be returned when the restoration of my health would enable me to attend to business, it was cruelly rejected. On my recovery I waited on him at Deptford, to demand the cause of his refusal, when, to my inexpressible astonishment and disappointment, he answered, that the *authority* Mr. Farrer *had left him to receive money at the India-House was insufficient*, and he did not chuse to advance any on his own account where the risk of never being reimbursed was so great. There was a means, however, by which, he told me, I might be relieved:—His family wanted a superintendant, and I was welcome to reside at his house ; but that I might

not

not mistake the return he expected for his generosity, he rudely proceeded to attempt taking those liberties, which every woman of virtue considers the grossest insults, and repels with scorn and indignation.

I returned to town melancholy and dejected, friendless, and in want—From my customers I could procure no money, and my creditors became clamorous. To avoid their persecution I left my lodgings; and resolving to seek an asylum in the country, parted with the little remaining plate I possessed, and all the cloaths I could possibly spare, which made up a sum sufficient to bear my travelling expences and to subsist on, till I could get into employment.

As several of my customers had gone to Southampton, I fixed on that town for the place of my retreat. There I remained for two months, earning a tolerable living, and returned to town with an encrease of cheer.

cheerfulness; which was, however, immediately on my arrival, imbittered by a severe misfortune.

Previous to my journey to Southampton, I had employed an attorney to collect the amount of my bills. In this man I had confidence; but on applying for the money he received, I found, to my confusion, disappointment, and loss, that he was a nefarious wretch, from whom I should never obtain a shilling.

Mr. Farrer having promised to write the first opportunity, and to direct to Mr. Norman, I went again to Deptford, in hope of receiving a letter, and found one which had been laying there for some time. In this letter Mr. Farrer informed me, he had written Mr. Norman, requesting him to advance me twenty-five pounds every six months, till his return. The date of this letter

letter was the 20th of October, 1784, but I did not receive it till after Christmas, 1785.

Mr. Norman, on my requesting of him to comply with my husband's desire, refused to advance twenty-five pounds without security, but let me have ten pounds on giving him a receipt.

In three months after, Mr. Norman received another letter, dated from Bombay, enclosing a draft on a gentleman in London; but this circumstance did not come to my knowledge till within two months of my arrival; for the unfeeling wretch, to whom the draft was remitted, though conscious of my distress, never presented it till advice was received that the *True Briton* was in the Channel.—Then, indeed, he advanced me twenty pounds, advising me to retire into the country; and accordingly I went to my brother, who resided at Ramsgate, and



and remained with him till the ship came into the Downs.

The ship arrived 29th of October, and the next day I set off with my brother for Deal, where I met my husband, who received me with the most cordial affection: and by his directions I went the ensuing morning for London to procure proper lodgings for his reception, where, in about a week he arrived—the ship taking that time to get round.

In a few days after Mr. Farrer came to town, he related to me several circumstances respecting a Mrs. Parks, whom, about seven years before, he had taken out to India, and who had been seduced from him by Captain Parks; a conduct which, even soon after our marriage, he had often reprobated as unmanly treatment, and had repeatedly declared he would resent.

At this time she had returned to England with Captain Parks; but though she had six children by him, he had deserted her, as Mr. Farrer told me, to the calamities of poverty and shame. On hearing of Captain Farrer's arrival, she flew to him for relief and protection; of which he made no secret to me; but, on the contrary, painted the miseries of her situation in such colours, that I could not but sympathize in her distress, and even solicited him to interfere, and endeavour, if possible, to obtain for her a settlement from the father of her children.

Mr. Farrer seemingly approved my conduct, and declared he would force Parks to act with generosity, or call him to an account; and he certainly interested himself so effectually in the lady's favour, as to obtain her an independence. This negotiation took up a considerable time, but whether Mrs. Parks was supported by Mr. Farrer during the course of it, I cannot tell, though

though I have strong reasons to suppose he passed the greatest part of his time in her company, or that of some other woman ; as in the first six months after his arrival in England he never dined at home but once, and seldom lay there above once or twice in a week ; and besides our lodgings, which were at Kensington, he had chambers in the Temple, where I was never permitted to intrude without his invitation or giving previous notice : yet these circumstances never gave me any alarm or raised suspicions of jealousy.

Having business, however, in town, one afternoon, I called at the chambers, and was admitted by the landress, who shewed me into an outward room, saying the Captain had company with him in the drawing-room ; but upon opening the door, I saw a cloak, which convinced me that my husband's companion was a woman.

I now felt the *first* pangs of jealousy, but resolved to suppress every evidence of my  
C feelings.

feelings. Mr. Farrer came out, and requested I would go away till his company departed. I acquiesced, and returned at eight o'clock, when I found he had left chambers. This was a mortifying circumstance—a circumstance which accounted for his neglect ; but I determined upon attempting to regain his affections by the influence of mildness, and resolving not to upbraid him, returned home with an aching heart.

To accommodate my situation to the indigence of his circumstances, I considered my duty ; and immediately engaged for board and lodging, with my sister, for the same money I had before paid for lodgings only ; I also retrenched every other superfluous expence, and took upon me the labour of getting up all his linen, which I used to convey backwards and forwards from the Temple to St. John's Street. This circumstance will surely satisfy the world that I was not an expensive wife, and the whole of my conduct will, I hope, prove that I was an obedient and affectionate one ;



—what character Mr. Farrer deserves as a husband, the anecdotes I am now going to relate will shew.

Soon after I had taken up my abode with my sister, her family increasng, I was obliged to sleep at chambers, which I perceived made Mr. Farrer extremely uneasy, fretful and capricious. Indeed, from this instant I may date my future misery, for now I was convinced my conversation was disagreeable, and my person an impediment to the private pursuits of my husband. He desired I should quit my sister's and procure a cheap lodging, which I accordingly did, by hiring one at five shillings a week, on a second floor in Fetter Lane.

One morning as I was looking over Mr. Farrer's linen, I found a note in his waistcoat pocket directed to Mrs. Parks, and written as follows : “ Capt. Farrer would  
“ be glad to see Mrs. Parks this afternoon,  
“ if convenient, to eat a bit of dinner at

“ four o’clock to-day. Wednesday morning.” On the back of this note was a memorandum, which shewed it had been delivered and returned again to the possession of Capt. Farrer, and also gave me reason to suspect that he supplied her with money—it was a memorandum of a debt which she owed.

I concealed this discovery till opportunity should enable me to make a proper use of it, and in a few days I was indulged. Mr. Farrer told me he was going out of town for a short time, and requested I should not call at chambers in his absence ; but suspecting Mrs. Parks was his companion on his excursion, I went that evening to the house where she lodged, to which the note I had found gave me the direction.

The people of the house were as polite and communicative as I could have wished. They told me Mrs. Parks had deceived them, that she came to lodge at their house in the character of a widow, and that Capt. Parks

Parks visited her as a relation ; but that Capt. Farrer, to whom she had written on his arrival from India, they had reason to believe, had become her keeper, for though he had never slept in the house all night, he frequently went into the country with her, accompanied her to Vauxhall and other public places, and often kept her out till two, three, and four o'clock in the morning. They also assured me, that he made her considerable presents, frequently sent her in wine, and paid her every possible attention ; at which they expressed their surprize, as her manners showed her to be both ignorant of politeness, and grossly illiterate ; and that her servant had a short time before, in the presence of Capt. Farrer, upbraided her for encouraging the visits of a married man,

This information affected me exceedingly, but collecting my spirits I went up stairs, where I understood he was ; intending, however, to stifle every ember of resentment, and only request of him to return

home.—But notwithstanding my assured resolution, when, on opening the door, I found him sitting with Mrs. Parks, my spirits failed me, and I had nearly fainted. He appeared confounded, and several minutes elapsed in silence, till on my sitting down he recovered from his confusion, and assured me if I would go home, he would follow me in a few minutes: I obeyed, and he was punctual, for he returned almost immediately, and declared in the most solemn manner, that though appearances were against him, his visits to Mrs. Parks were dictated solely by friendship: a declaration, which, though it flattered my mind, by no means lessened my doubts—or softened the poignancy of my feelings. But, severe as these feelings were, they were still to be increased by insults the most cruel that can wound the sensibility of a female bosom. I had now to experience, that Mrs. Parks was not the only person to whom my husband sacrificed the attention he owed to me,

but



but that he carried on an intrigue of a still more nefarious and degrading nature—that he was connected with a married woman, and for purposes the most wicked.

The personage I allude to is no less than the *Right Honourable the Countess of Strathmore*, who, at this Time, I discovered had written several epistles and *billet-deux* to my husband, too long for me to transcribe, but the tenderness, of which a slight sketch of contents will sufficiently evince.

These letters consisted of tender upbraidings for absence and neglect—gentle insinuations that her paramour's time was better employed than in a repetition of those pleasures she had contributed to entertain him with—and warm solicitations to visit at her house, or other places of assignation. In short, they not only breathed the ardent stile of an amorous spirit, but strongly indicated a rapturous retrospect of past favors.

Soon after this event, Mr. Farrer went to Margate, with his brother, an Attorney,

and during a fortnight's absence I never had a line from him. On the day of his return he called on me, in Fetter-lane ; it was nine in the evening, he complained of being very much fatigued, and said he would go to bed at chambers. I would have persuaded him to remain with me, or permit me to accompany him, and procure him supper ; but he rejected the profered service of my affection, and next day, when he called, told me he was engaged to go out of town with Lady Strathmore and one Mrs. Morgan, on the ensuing morning, and was to dine at her Ladyship's house in Bloomsbury square, to settle the time of their departure. He also insisted I should not think of lying in chambers that night, as he did not intend being home till late, and should go out very early in the morning.

Though, at that time, I was not acquainted with the conduct of Lady Strathmore, yet, her thus making assignations with my husband, raised suspicions in my mind

mind not very favourable to her reputation ; retrospective ideas corroborated those suspicions, and convinced me I had not been neglected and deserted for one woman ; I recollected that Lady Strathmore had often been the subject of Mr. Farrer's conversation ; he had often represented her as an amiable virtuous woman, who had been cruelly and unjustly used ; and when I complained of his ill treatment to me, it was his frequent custom to abuse me with approbious language, draw invidious comparisons between me and her Ladyship, of whom he spoke with tenderness and warmth ; nay he would often damn me, and with the foulest terms of execration, wish I had been married to Captain Stoney, that I might know the difference between the good treatment I received from him, and the cruel usage, the poor dear woman, meaning Lady Strathmore, had experienced from Captain Stoney, whom she had married ; but, from whom, he soon hoped to see her *divorced*,

The interest which my husband took in Lady Strathmore's affairs, made at first no impression on me, as he told me he had been long acquainted with her family, and had known her when a child, which I find now was a falsehood; I therefore, imputed to friendship and pity, what, I have since discovered, resulted from an illicit commerce; and on his part, I believe, a mercenary connection with an *ambitious prospect*.

On Mr. Farrer's return from Tunbridge-wells, where he had gallantly escorted Lady Strathmore, as her *Cicisbeo*, his aversion to me was evidently increased, and he took some pains to convince me that my presence was disgusting. At this, I cannot be surprized—the Captain had now two ladies to attend, and one of them a Countess—in such a situation he could not but consider that house-hold plague a wife, an impediment to his pleasures, and a drawback on his interest. To remove her was a desirable and prudent object, and I have no doubt but he had



had determined on measures for that purpose before his return from Tunbridge with Lady Strathmore.

Whether this resolution was the result of a conference with her Ladyship, and her Ladyship's servant, Mrs Morgan, I cannot take upon me to determine, but I have strong grounds for supposing they were consulted on the occasion, as Mr. Farrer on his way from Tunbridge to town, had viewed a small house, in which he proposed I should reside, from an apprehension, as he said, that his brother should discover our marriage.

I said little on the subject at that time, my mind wavered between refusing and acquiescing, but a circumstance which soon after occurred, determined me to accede to the proposal. Though convinced, by Mrs. Park's landlady, that my husband continued his illicit connection with that strumpet — though I had strong reason to believe that he

he carried on an amour with Lady Strathmore, who, from respect to nobility, I will not disgrace with that epithet, yet these circumstances, aggravated by the personal ill-usage I had experienced from him had not entirely alienated my affection. Time and satiety, I trusted would reclaim him from vice, and I resolved to wait the hour of his repentance with resignation and patience. But an event now occurred sufficient to kindle the warmest resentment, to insure even implacable hatred, and to create ineffable contempt.

I had three unmarried sisters, with each of whom Mr. Farrer had, at several times, presumed to take very unwarrantable liberties: returning one evening he met one of them in the street, who told him she was going to take tea with me in Fetter-lane. He informed her I was at chambers, that he was going there to meet me, and would accompany her. On their entering the chambers, Mr. Farrer locked the door, and, in a resolute tone

tone of voice, declared, it would be of no effect for her to oppose his desires, he was determined——she was in his power, and had better submit quietly ; my sister resenting his conduct with spirit, my husband immediately proceeded to violence, and from six till nine o'clock, continued, by the most savage attempts and brutal force, to perpetrate his purpose ; happily, however, she defended her chastity from violation, when he being fatigued with the contest, gave it up, and leaving her in the chambers came to me. His agitation was not to be concealed—he told me with a quivering voice, that my sister was at chambers, and would speak with me ; I, without enquiring into the cause, yet trembling with apprehension of some evil, attended him.

What a spectacle of distress did I behold ! The poor girl was drowned in tears, her cloaths were nearly torn into shreds, and her back and arms were covered with bruises—

I en-

I enquired into the cause of her distress—grief deprived her of utterance—but he exclaimed “Damn you! are you jealous of  
 “ your own sister, because I have been romping with her?” As this was not the first attempt he made upon the chastity of my sister, I could not but blame her credulity, though I knew it was the consequence of innocence; and as it is my duty in this appeal to shew Mr. Farrer, and those prostituted women, (for whom he has abandoned me,) in their proper colours, I must obtrude upon those who indulge me with a hearing, another anecdote of a similar kind, which should have been stated before.

The same sister having supped with us one night at chambers, by his desire remained all night, and slept with me in an inward room, he sleeping in an outward one. At five in the morning, he came softly to the door, which from precaution I had locked, and on my speaking he retired. Some  
 time



time after, on my opening the door, he forced in and rushing forward, immediately leaped into bed, where my sister lay. The poor girl terrified at his brutality, got behind the curtain, when like a disappointed savage, he not only raved, cursed, and swore, but was guilty of the most shocking and extravagant indecencies. I followed him to his room, and venturing to observe that his behaviour looked like madness, he became outrageous, reproached me with severe invectives, and cursed me with the most horrid imprecations.

The Saturday after his last incestuous attempt upon my sister, I went to chambers, and he came home about ten o'clock, which was very unusual, as he generally dissipated till morning, with either Lady Strathmore, or Mrs. Parks. He declared himself much offended at finding me in chambers, desired I should not in future be so frequently there, but stay in my lodging, and not come a-

gain

gain, untill he called upon me, as he was going out of town. I remained, however, that night, but at six o'clock in the morning, he awoke me, and insisted on my returning to my lodgings, as he expected company to breakfast. I obeyed without expostulation; but, being miserable the whole day, about nine o'clock in the evening, I walked into the Temple, and seeing a light in the rooms, went up stairs. When at the door, however, I became extremely faint, and though I had a key, yet dared not let myself in, so returned to Fetter-lane almost frantic.

At about eleven o'clock, I came back to chambers, and ventured in. There was then no light, but from the disorder of the rooms, and several empty bottles on the tables, it was clear that Captain Farrer had been entertaining some company at dinner; and a pair of cloggs, which lay under



der the fettee, convinced me, there had been one or more females of the party.

The next morning at eight o'clock, I went again to the Temple and found Mr. Farrer in bed. He was much confused at having been thus palpably detected in a gross falshood; but after taking some time for recollection, meanly attempted to account for it by the invention of another. He told me, that the company he was engaged with into the country, had postponed their excursion to a future day; and then looking on me, with rage, and hatred strongly marked in his countenance, became extremely abusive; swore he would instantly put an end to my coming to chambers by sending me into the country, where if I refused to live, I might chuse my own place to starve in, for unless I consented to reside at the house he had been to look at in Kent, he would not advance a shilling for my support.

Such was the ascendancy this man had gained over my mind,—such was the effect of habitual submission to usurped tyranny, that I dared not claim or vindicate the rights and privileges of a wife, but weakly and implicitly submitted to the despotic commands of this unfeeling—this ungrateful husband.

Accompanied by my brother, I went the next day into Kent, and took the house which my husband and Lady Strathmore had been looking at, by the name of Smith, which name he insisted I should go by ; and having received twenty pounds from him, I purchased some second-hand furniture, and in the course of a week took possession of my dreary mansion.

The evening previous to my leaving London, Captain Farrer was remarkably savage and ill-tempered, which, with the oppression of my mind, had such influence

on my nerves, that I could not assume courage to inform him of my wants, though what he had given me, was nearly exhausted; indeed, I knew he was himself very poor at that time, and therefore set off the next morning in the stage with a heavy heart, distracted mind, and empty purse, and after being a few days in Kent, found myself destitute of common necessaries.

Is it possible that human nature could be reduced to deeper distress than I now experienced? Repudiated by my husband without cause! that husband living in adultery with the wife of another man!---Secluded from the world and without means of support. From the feelings of this husband I had little to expect, they had been long callous to the solicitations of my miseries! However, I wrote him a letter, which being dictated by sorrow, was tender and pathetic---it described my situation, my wants and my fears---it implored his assistance,

and expressed my regret at my being forced to apply for relief even to him, whose duty it was to afford me support.

What was his answer? cruel, ungrateful man! In a style of apathy and contempt he informed me, he was going to *Cheltenham* with a *friend*, should be gone about a month or six weeks, and if I could not make *shift* till he returned, I must borrow.

This answer distracted my heart; and must shock every human creature who hears it.---A husband says to his *wife*, "I cannot spare from the expences of my vicious pleasures, a portion to supply your actual wants---you must *borrow*, or if you cannot *borrow* you must *starve*, or you must ---." The alternative is too gross for expression---yet there is no doubt but, *Captain Farrer*, would not have objected to any means, however vicious or disgraceful, by  
which

which he could have been relieved from my importunities.

As it was impossible for me to comply with his request, as I could neither live upon the air, nor barter my virtue for bread, I went early next morning to town ; but Captain Farrer was not at the Temple. In the evening, however, I met him, and after receiving from him the most illiberal and unmanly abuse, he gave me a bill for twenty pounds, a circumstance which further evinced his cruel disposition, as it proved his answer was not the consequence of absolute necessity, notwithstanding his indigent circumstances. This money he gave me conditionally that I should return to Kent the next morning. Where he procured money, I was then at a loss to account for, but I have now reason to believe he was amply paid for the dedication of his person and time to the services of his Right Honourable Mistress.



It was then eleven o'clock at night, and I intended to remain in chambers, but he positively refused me that indulgence, and insisted I should seek for a lodging with some of my friends, as he expected company in the morning to breakfast. I pleaded the late hour, the scandal and danger of walking the streets so late and alone, and the probability that I might not find a place to lie in; most of my friends being then out of town, and my sister's house being full; on which he consented, though with reluctance, I should remain till six o'clock. By his permission I then went to bed, as I had often done before, not as a wife, but like a wretch upon the sufferance of charity---and at the fixed hour in the morning left the chambers.

His injunction to quit town, I was determined, however, not to obey; so went to my sister's, and, at about ten o'clock, called at the house of Mrs. Parks, where I was



informed, that from the morning I had left town, she had gone out every day by eight o'clock, as she had done that morning.

I now determined to convince my inhuman husband, that I was acquainted with his dissipated life, and at ten in the evening went to his chambers, expecting I should find either Mrs. Parks, or Lady Strathmore there. I listened for some time, and heard Mrs. Parks discoursing with the laundress: I knocked repeatedly, but not being admitted, forced the door open, and found Mrs. Parks in the room. Such was the agitation of my spirits, on seeing this woman, that I fainted, and just as I recovered, Mr. Far-  
 rer came in.

A scene of triumph to my rival was the consequence of my husband's appearance---the unmanly wretch struck me violently and knocked me down---but his blows were not so cruel as his words---with barbarous ma-

lignity he uttered expressions of the bitterest kind, damning, my sham fits and crocodile tears, (as he called them,)—and with the utmost tenderness he intreated his mistress not to be distressed, for that my behaviour was not worth her notice. At twelve o'clock he went away with his strumpet; leaving his wife overwhelmed with misery.

Weak, and severely injured from blows and ill usage, I was unable to quit the chambers, so crawled to bed, tortured with pain of body and anxiety of mind.

At three in the morning Captain Farrer returned---returned to repeat his ill usage and increase my agonies. With horrid oaths he threatened to drag me out of bed, and horsewhip me through the Temple---I feared the consequences of provoking him to an execution of his threats, so arose, left the chambers, and went to my sister's, from whence

whence after taking a few hours rest, I proceeded to the country.

This cruel and undeserved treatment was not new, I had repeatedly experienced the like from Captain Farrer. He had frequently threatened me with instant death, and had often seized his pistols, which hung over the fire-place, and presented them at me, swearing with horrid oaths, he would take my life. Heaven knows my answers to him were sincere, my miserable existence was not worth soliciting for, and I told him from the bottom of my heart, I would willingly resign it---that death was preferable to torture, and that with my dying breath I would forgive him if he put his threats in execution.

On those occasions fear would arrest his hands---and with dastardly meanness, he would at one o'clock in the morning drive me by force from my lodgings, when I must have

have walked the streets, liable to every gross insult, if an affectionate sister had not afforded me an asylum. Wet or cold never softened his temper---he would thrust me out to encounter the severest inclemencies of winter nights---neither could entreaties or tears affect him, for such was the passion of this unsympathising monster, that he was equally deaf to the dictates of humanity, and the force of reason.

Nothing material occurred till the following March, when I applied to my uncle, to enquire of Mr. Farrer, if he intended to make any provision for my support. The answer I received was, that he intended to allow me fifty pounds a year, to be paid half yearly, but not being convenient for him to advance the first installment then, he would in a few days, pay it to my uncle. I therefore remained in town at the house of Mrs. Russell, a widow lady, whom I had known some time, and there at the beginning

ning of April I was taken ill, and confined for six weeks, under the care of Dr. Lett-  
som.

When my situation became serious, it was communicated to Mr. Farrer, who came one evening, about nine o'clock, and with a supercilious coolness, said to Mrs. Russell, that hearing my disorder was dangerous he wished to be informed what was the matter with me; she told him, I was extremely ill, with a fever, and he accompanied her up-stairs to the chamber where I lay.

As I was very low, at that time, his appearance deprived me of speech---the recollection of his repeated ill treatments revived---and melted by sorrow, I burst into tears. He remained about ten minutes in the room, but never spoke till his departure, when he asked me if I wanted any thing, and wished me a good night.



Mrs. Russell attended him down stairs, he went into the parlour with her, and remained there till twelve o'clock. I had sent for Mrs. Russell to request she would extort from him his reasons for using me ill. She attempted to execute my commission ; but soon found she had a cause of her own to defend, Mr. Farrer insisting he should be permitted to remain secretly with her all night.

To those who are acquainted with Mr. Farrer's character, this event will not appear extraordinary ;—but surely such conduct must meet with reprobation from every person of humanity. Can nature produce such another monster ? For the honour of mankind, it is to be hoped, that this instance of hard heartedness is unparalleled ! How profligate must that wretch be, who, while his wife languished under pain and disease, could, in the very house with her, and to  
her

her friend and protector make overtures of a sensual passion ?

I am now to apologize to Lady *Strathmore*.—Her Ladyship may feel offended that I should so long have made her a secondary character in this melancholy memoir.—Her Ladyship may be hurt, that I should have neglected allowing her that precedence which her rank calls for, and her conduct merits, in the detail of my husband's profligate connections.—Her Ladyship may feel her pride piqued, that, being the principal cause of my miseries, she has not been brought forward with early and particular attention ; but she will recollect, that tho' the first heroine in the drama, she had not a part in every scene, and was reserved to strengthen the catastrophe. I will now, however, introduce a few anecdotes, perhaps flattering to her Ladyship's vanity as a woman of intrigue, though they would disgrace a woman who pretended to what her Ladyship

ship

ship seems to disregard—honour and reputation.

Long before my separation from Captain Farrer, Lady Strathmore frequently called on him at Chambers, a place where few modest women venture to visit, even their lawyers or counsel, unless under the protection of some male friend—a place where no woman, who regards delicacy, would appear so late as the hours of ten or eleven at night. Yet, at such a place, and at such hours, Lady Strathmore often visited Captain Farrer.

It was her Ladyship's custom also frequently to call in her carriage and take him from Chambers. A wife's presence would have damped the festivity, and marred the joys of *such* a party; and there was a probability she might have intruded and spoiled the pleasures of a *tête-à-tête*.

On those occasions it was usual for Captain Farrer to take his sword or pistols with him. The excuse of this conduct was, that it was dangerous for her Ladyship to be abroad without some one to guard her, as she was fearful Mr. Bowes, her husband, would carry her off by force, which would be materially injurious to the interest of his brother, her ladyship's attorney.

But if Lady Strathmore's apprehensions were such, was there not as much danger in her *coming* to the Temple unguarded as in *going from* it? Was not the protection of Captain Farrer as necessary to her safety in one case as in the other? On these occasions, a woman, named Morgan, often attended, as I presume, for the purpose of keeping up appearances. This tractable companion to her Ladyship the Captain described to me as a person of fashion; but I now find she is Lady Strathmore's *convenient* friend, preferred from the kitchen, where she officiated

ated as cook, to *private* confidence and a seat in the carriage.

Those who know Lady Strathmore's character, will no doubt be surpris'd that Captain Farrer should form an attachment to her; but there was a golden prospect in view which influenced him, and to the attaining of which his marriage with me was the principal impediment. Lady Strathmore was, at this time, suing Mr. Bowes for a divorce; and the gallant Captain had commenced a siege upon her heart, where, the garrison being corrupt, he soon obtained a surrender, and looked forward to the plunder of those treasures which would come into her possession, the moment she succeeded in her attempt of being divorced from her husband.

To the attaining of this great and desired end I was a material obstacle; to remove me, of course, was an object of consequence.



quence. Though Captain Farrer's conduct might support a suspicion that he had a design on my life—yet I will not exhibit so black a charge against him.—I am convinced, from his ill usage, that my death would have been a pleasure, as well as a convenience to him; and I accuse him and his Coadjutors of conspiring to rob me of my reputation, by a scheme as weak as it was wicked.

My marriage with Captain Farrer was disinterested—from his family I could obtain no honour—from his fortune no respectable situation in life---he had nothing to boast in possession or expectancy—His father had been a bankrupt trader, and he had been born and educated in indigence and obscurity—Yet this man, for some cause, I could never discover, (except an apprehension of offending his brother, an attorney, in Bread-Street-Hill,) had prevailed on me to keep my marriage secret, and from time to time induced me to continue under a mysterious cloud.

The right of a wife, however, I am now determined to establish, and if he dare, let him produce the *fraudulent* instrument he obtained from me in a public court; I will meet it with the certificate and proof of my marriage. This article, which I have annexed, was witnessed by Mr. *Lacy*, an attorney, and partner to Captain Farrer's brother; a circumstance, from which I have a right to conclude, that Captain Farrer had acquainted his brother with our marriage, and that with his assent, and indeed under his advice, for the reasons already assigned, this article was drawn up.---By this article I was to receive one hundred pounds---but what was I to give up? every claim a wife has on her husband, and to banish myself *one hundred miles* from London, or forfeit *one thousand pounds*---and for what purpose? to enable my husband to marry Lady Strathmore, on the contingency of her being divorced---It was to satisfy Lady Strathmore's *delicacy*

and

and *conscience*---and the ambition and *avarice* of the *Farrers*, that I was thus imposed upon to sign this article in my *maiden name*—being told that the signature of my *husband's* name would be *illegal*.---But the fraud by which it was obtained, is too palpable,—the wickedness and the folly too glaring to bear animadversion---Captain Farrer had before agreed with my uncle to allow me fifty pounds annually, and now imposes upon the world that I had given up every claim to character---every right of support from him, for one hundred pounds! But Captain Farrer will find he has deceived himself---he will be convinced to his shame and cost that this article, upon the strength of which he hopes to be freed from a lawful wife, and to throw her upon the world without support, is not only *voidable*, but *void*; that the rights I acquired by marriage are unalienable, and that my claims upon him for maintenance, or for divorce,

as I may chuse, are founded in the law of the land, and will be supported by it.

But to return to Lady Strathmore—from whatever motive my husband became her Ladyship's protector, it is to her I must attribute the decrease and total loss of his affections. Conscious of this I cannot reflect on her conduct, without emotions of resentment---To her a husband was no object---she had no relish for connubial felicity. When women deviate from the paths of virtue, and launch into the indiscriminate indulgence of vice, "every rank fool goes down;"—but as Lady Strathmore's attachments were not the result of love or the offspring of sentiment, as the *sex* and not the particular individual, was the object of her passion, she might have confined that passion to single men; and though she left her own husband, and brought discredit on her own family, she might have spared mine. With Mrs. Parks, it is true, he had

a previous intimacy ; but I never suffered under abuse, or *blows*, till he became the *guardian* of Lady Strathmore's person. It is to Lady Strathmore, I owe total neglect. It is to Lady Strathmore, I owe separation from my husband. It was on his excursion with Lady Strathmore to Tunbridge, that my husband resolved on my banishment. It was on his return with her from that excursion, that he fixed on the place of my imprisonment. To break my *heart* was the great object---the *Hand* of Lady Strathmore and her estates, if she succeeded against her husband, were to be the rewards.

From my first acquaintance with this Right Honourable Dowager, I became a continual subject of invidious comparison. in his eyes I lost every attractive power. I had neither the *beauty*, the *elegance*, the *good nature*, nor the *politeness* of Lady Strathmore : but, thank heaven, I preserved *that* which he could never call in question. I  
pre-



preserved my loyalty to my husband, and this is an attribute not to be entered upon the catalogue of Lady Strathmore's qualifications.

Indeed, I am convinced, that notwithstanding Captain Farrer's regard for Mrs. Parks, he would never have parted from me, if it had not been for Lady Strathmore; by the one he was duped,—by the other he was fascinated. Time and experience would have weaned him from Mrs. Parks, but Lady Strathmore held forth fortune and equipage to stimulate his pride, and flatter his vanity. While connected with Mrs. Parks, he at least kept up the appearance of regard to me; her he visited occasionally, but Lady Strathmore monopolized him, and my endeavours to reclaim him, from his first connection, I do sincerely believe would have succeeded, if his second had not so contaminated him with vice, as to

eradicate every generous sentiment from his heart. Mrs. Parks did not entirely deprive me of my husband's company---but after Captain Farrer became *protector* to Lady Strathmore, I can safely say, my state was that of *widowhood*; for in *no respect* whatever, did Captain Farrer conduct himself to me as a husband.

Lady Strathmore, however, has not been without her disappointment. Her Knight-errant has become recreant——when his courage was put to the test, he forgot the object of his *gallantry*, he lost sight of his ambition, he fled at the appearance of her husband, and though he had the law to support him, and arms in his hands, surrendered his *fair* and *virtuous* charge to Mr. Bowes, and applied for redress to magistracy.

Even

Even I, felt for the contemptible situation into which this disgrace plunged him--- notwithstanding his cruelty, his ungenerosity---and falsehoods---he was my husband ; and I was sorry for his disgrace, meanness, and pusillanimity.

I cannot conclude my narrative without wishing that Captain Farrer would enter into a vindication of his conduct towards me ; and I call upon him to state, if he had any honest and defensible motives for his ingratitude, and savage behaviour.

My reasons for thus obtruding my private grievances on the public attention are founded on *self preservation*, the universal principle of human nature ; my character and existence are at stake. I am informed  
that

that Lady Strathmore will certainly succeed in her law suits depending between her and her husband, and that she will also obtain a divorce in the Ecclesiastical Courts. I am convinced that Captain Farrer looks forward to that event with anxious hope, and stedfast reliance that he will obtain her Ladyship in marriage—and if that should be the consequence, what is to become of me—without money, without friends! To prevent this union, is a duty I owe to Heaven and to myself; and, therefore I stand forward thus early, and thus publicly, to *forbid the unhallowed banns*. I know there is a legal punishment for such transgressions; but what satisfaction would it be to me to prosecute this profligate husband, should he dare violate the Laws of God and Man, by committing the perjury and falsehood of a second marriage during my life? My reputation and my conscience, therefore, call upon me to prevent the perpetration of such a crime; and though he may curse me now

in the bitterness of shame and disappointment, yet the hour will come when he will bless, and consider me his Guardian Angel, for thus interfering between him and perdition.

M. F——.

INSTRU-



INSTRUMENT *referred to in Page 50.*

**THIS INDENTURE** made the First Day of November, in the Twenty-eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the Year of our Lord One thousand, Seven hundred and Eighty-seven, BETWEEN Henry Farrer, of the Inner Temple, London, of the one Part, and Mary Goldsmith, of Swallow Street, in the County of Middlesex, of the other Part. **Whereas** the said Henry Farrer and Mary Goldsmith have for some Time lived and cohabited together, and she hath at different Times, and upon different Occasions, assumed and taken upon herself the several Names of Goldsmith, Farrer and Smith. **And Whereas** the said Henry Farrer and Mary Goldsmith have for divers good and weighty Reasons and Causes, each of them thereunto especially moving, agreed to live Separate and Apart

from each other, and thereupon the said Henry Farrer, and in order, and for the purpose of enabling the said Mary Goldsmith to place herself in a situation in the World whereby she may obtain a Livelihood, hath agreed to advance and pay her the Sum of One Hundred Pounds, upon the said Mary Goldsmith's executing to the said Henry Farrer a General Release, and entering into the several Covenants and Agreements herein after expressed. **Now therefore this Indenture Witnesseth,** That the said Mary Goldsmith, for and in consideration of the Sum of One Hundred Pounds of Lawful Money of Great Britain, to her in Hand well and truly paid by the said Henry Farrer, at or before the sealing and delivering hereof, the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and thereof and of and from the same doth acquit, release, and discharge the said Henry Farrer by these presents, and for divers other good Causes and Considerations her thereunto moving, hath remitted,

ed, released, and for ever quit claimed, and by these presents doth remise, release, and for ever quit claim, fully and absolutely unto the said Henry Farrer, his Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, all and all Manner of Action and Actions, Suit and Suits, Allowances, Annuities, Debts, Accounts, Reckonings, Claims, and Demands whatsoever, or of what Nature or Kind soever, which she, the said Mary Goldsmith, now have or hath, upon or against the said Henry Farrer, from the beginning of the World to the Day next before the Date of these Presents. AND for the Considerations aforesaid, she, the said Mary Goldsmith, Doth hereby for herself, her Executors and Administrators, Covenant, Promise and Agree to and with the said Henry Farrer, his Executors, Administrators and Assigns, that she, the said Mary Goldsmith, shall not, nor will at any Time hereafter, apply to, or make any Claim, or Demand of Money or  
other

other Thing of, from or upon him, the said Henry Farrer, or any other person on his Account, for the Support, Maintenance or Cloathing, of her the said Mary Goldsmith, or for any other Purpose whatsoever, but on the contrary, that she the said Mary Goldsmith shall and will, for ever hereafter, maintain, and wholly provide for herself, in every respect, both in sickness and in health, and in no wise make, or cause to be made, any application to him the said Henry Farrer, or his Friends, for any Sum of Money, or Allowance for that Purpose, or otherwise attempt to become chargeable, or a Burden to him the said Henry Farrer. AND ALSO, that the said Mary Goldsmith, shall not, nor will, at any Time hereafter, disturb or molest the said Henry Farrer, or assume, or take upon her the Name of Farrer, or contract any Debt or Debts in that Name, with a View or in order to make him the said Henry Farrer, liable to the Payment thereof, or with,



or for any other View or Interest whatsoever, but shall and will pay and discharge herself all such Debt or Debts, as she hath, or shall, or may hereafter contract. And also that she the said Mary Goldsmith shall not, nor will at any Time hereafter, live within *One Hundred Miles* of the City of London. AND the said Henry Farrer doth hereby for himself, his Executors and Administrators, covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said Mary Goldsmith, her Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Mary Goldsmith, at all times hereafter, to live, reside, and be, and in such place and places, and in such Family or Families, and with such Relations, Friends, and other Persons, as she the said Mary Goldsmith shall think fit and proper, so as the same be at the distance of *One Hundred Miles* from London, and that he the said Henry Farrer should not, nor will at any time hereafter, sue, molest, disturb, or trouble her; the said



faid Mary Goldsmith, nor visit her, or knowingly come into any house, or place where she should or may dwell, reside, or be. AND ALSO, that the said Henry Farrer shall not, nor will not, at any Time or Times hereafter, claim or demand any of the Estate, Effects, or Things, which she, the said Mary Goldsmith, hath, or which she is possessed of, or which shall be given to her, or she shall otherwise acquire. AND for the due Performance of the several Covenants and Agreements aforesaid, by and on the Part of the said Mary Goldsmith, to be fulfilled and performed, she, the said Mary Goldsmith, doth hereby bind herself, her Heirs, Executors, and Administrators unto the said Henry Farrer, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, in the penal Sum of One Thousand Pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain. AND for the like due Performance of the several Covenants and Agreements aforesaid, by and on the part of the Henry Farrer, to be ful-

filled and performed, he, the said Henry Farrer, doth hereby bind himself his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, unto the said Mary Goldsmith, her Executors, Administrators and Assigns, in the penal Sum of One Thousand Pounds of like lawful Money.

In witness whereof the said Parties to these Presents have hereunto set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year First above written.

(Signed)

Signed and delivered  
(being first duly  
Stampd) in the Pre-  
sence of

HENRY FARRER.

(Signed)

MARY GOLDSMITH.

(Signed)

SAMUEL FLETCHER, Fleet-street.

(Signed)

THOMAS LACY.

Received the Day and Year first above  
written, of and from the above-  
mentioned Henry Farrer, the full  
Sum of One Hundred Pounds, be-  
ing the Consideration Money a- } £100  
bove mentioned, to be paid by him  
to me,---I say received by me,  
MARY GOLDSMITH.

WITNESS,

(Signed)

SAMUEL THATCHER.

(Signed)

THOMAS LACY.

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